

Message Text

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ACTION PM-04

INFO OCT-01 NEA-10 ISO-00 NSC-05 SP-02 SS-15 CIAE-00

INR-07 NSAE-00 PRS-01 /045 W
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R 131326Z NOV 76

FM AMEMBASSY KUWAIT
TO SECSTATE WASHDC 6611
INFO JCS WASHDC
USCINCEUR

C O N F I D E N T I A L KUWAIT 5297

E.O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: MASS, KU

SUBJ: PROPOSED VISIT OF MG MUBARAK

REF: (A) STATE 265857, (B) KUWAIT 4643

1. SINCE REFTEL B INDICATED THAT PROPOSED VISIT TO U.S. BY KUWAIT ARMED FORCES CHIEF OF STAFF MAJOR GENERAL MUBARAK WAS RAISED INFORMALLY BY HIS AIDE, NO SPECIFIC DISCUSSION OF THIS REQUEST HAS YET TAKEN PLACE WITH SHAIKH MUBARAK. EMBASSY HAS BEEN SEEKING BEST WAY TO RAISE PROPOSAL CONTAINED REFTEL A FOR MUBARAK TO COME TO U.S. ON A "SELF-INVITED" VISIT. AS YET WE HAVE NOT FOUND APPROPRIATE OPPORTUNITY TO MAKE THIS APPROACH.

2. IN MEANWHILE, HOWEVER, AMBASSADOR, WHILE ATTENDING FOREIGN MINISTER'S RECEPTION FOR PRIME MINISTER OF LESOTHO ON NOV 10, JOINED CONVERSATION IN WHICH SHAIKH MUBARAK WAS A PARTICIPANT AND OVERHEARD HIM SAY THAT HE WOULD LIKE TO GO TO THE UNITED STATES FOR AN EXTENDED PRIVATE VISIT OF ABOUT FOUR MONTHS. AMBASSADOR TOOK THIS OCCASION TO SUGGEST THAT, IF MUBARAK ACTUALLY INTENDED TO VISIT U.S., HE WAS CERTAIN THAT DOD WOULD BE PLEASED TO ARRANGE VERY USEFUL TOUR FOR HIM AND NATURALLY TO EXTEND ALL COURTESIES APPROPRIATE TO HIS RANK AND POSITION. MUBARAK REITERATED THAT HIS THOUGHT HAD BEEN TO GO ON A PRIVATE VISIT AND DID NOT FOLLOW UP AMBASSADOR'S SUGGESTION.

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3. ON FOLLOWING DAY DURING CALL ON DEFENSE MINISTER DHAIKH SA'AD

AMBASSADOR INDICATED THAT HE HAD HEARD GENERAL MUBARAK INTENDED TO MAKE VISIT TO THE U.S. AND STATED THAT, IF THIS WERE THE CASE, DOD WOULD BE MOST PLEASED TO ARRANGE A USEFUL PROGRAM FOR HIM AND EXTEND HIM ALL APPROPRIATE COURTESIES. SHAIKH SA'AD REPLIED THAT IT WOULD BE A GOOD IDEA FOR MUBARAK TO VISIT THE U.S. AND, AS AMBASSADOR HAD SUGGESTED, SEE TRAINING OPERATIONS IN WHICH KUWAITIS WERE PARTICIPATING AND OTHER INSTALLATIONS OF INTEREST TO KUWAIT ARMED FORCES. HOWEVER, GENERAL MUBARAK WOULD BE TOO BUSY WITH OTHER THINGS IN THE NEAR FUTURE TO MAKE A VISIT TO THE U.S.

4. COMMENT: CONVERSATION WITH SHAIKH SA'AD WOULD SEEM TO INDICATE THAT MUBARAK VISIT TO U.S. IN NEAR FUTURE NOT LIKELY, BUT POSSIBILITY THAT IT MIGHT BE UNDERTAKEN EARLY NEXT YEAR SHOULD NOT BE EXCLUDED. EMBASSY HAS SOME CONCERN ABOUT ADVANCING THIS PROPOSAL FOR "SELF-INVITED" VISIT, PARTICULARLY SINCE WE HAVE LEARNED THAT YAR CHIEF OF STAFF HAS RECEIVED OFFICIAL INVITATION TO VISIT U.S. THIS WOULD WELL GET AROUND QUICKLY IN ARAB MILITARY CIRCLES AND MUBARAK MAY FEEL SLIGHTED IF ONLY "SELF-INVITED" VISIT IS PROPOSED FOR HIM. NEVERTHELESS, CHIEF, USLOK, UPON HIS RETURN IN A WEEK FROM TRAINING MISSION AT CINCEUR, WILL SEEK APPROPRIATE OPPORTUNITY TO DISCUSS VISIT AS PROPOSED REFTEL A WITH MUBARAK'S AIDE.
MAESTRONE

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